

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides compositions and methods for generation of premature transcription termination products. Premature termination of transcription  
5 interferes with the normal transcription and termination of early phase genes of the poxviruses and results in inhibition of replication of the poxviruses. The compositions of the present invention are oligonucleotides comprising a USNU sequence flanked by ribonucleotides, deoxyribonucleotides or modifications thereof. This invention also provides methods for inhibition of replication of poxvirus  
10 including the small poxvirus, Monkeypox virus and vaccinia virus.

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